

**OFFICE OF THE TOWN OF CAPITOL HEIGHTS COUNCIL  
RHONDA AKERS, CAROLINE BROWN, LATONYA CHEW, ELAINE WILLIAMS**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For More Information:**

Elliott Reed I  
Senior Advisor  
Office of the Town Administrator  
Town of Capitol Heights  
c. 301.747.8000  
o. 301-336-0626  
[townadministrator@capitolheightsmd.com](mailto:townadministrator@capitolheightsmd.com)

**CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MARYLAND GOVERNMENT DEVELOPING POLICY TO  
SUPPORT RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19**

*Announces New Projects Supporting Residents During Spring 2021*

**CAPITOL HEIGHTS, MD** – Capitol Heights Town Councilmembers Rhonda Akers, Caroline Brown, Latonya Chew, and Elaine Williams today launched the Capitol Heights Community Development Initiative to highlight plans to assist residents facing economic hardship by the spread of COVID-19. The new initiative is a public-private partnership of the Town, providing loans and grant funding for community development projects. The Town Council also allocated land for a community garden, a high tunnel (14 feet) enclosed 72 by 36-foot all-season garden, and gave initial approval to a proposal for land use by a community food co-op. The all-female, all-African American Council is actively updating the Town Charter, including formally changing the municipal designation from “Town” to “City”.

“We are able to announce new resources available for our nonprofits, businesses, and residents today as a result of the collaborative effort by the Town Council. As we move forward after the adoption of CR-2021-13, a resolution to temporarily suspend the Mayor from Office in accordance with Section 219 of the Town Charter, we remain focused on the people’s business” said Councilmember Elaine Williams, Chair of the Community, Health and Environment Committee. “We are progressing as a community because of our track record of transparent, accountable, and effective administration of our residents’ precious resources.”

On January 25, 2021, the Town Council, suspended Mr. Maldon, then voted to abolish the office on March 15, 2021, following full public notification. Subsequently, the Town Council approved a resolution on March 22, 2021, to extend the suspension period for Mr. Maldon. The Town is aware that Mr. Maldon has created a new, fee-based civic association. That entity is not affiliated with the Town and has no official designation nor authority.

“As elected officials representing the interests of thousands of people, we want to set the record straight about what is happening in the Town of Capitol Heights: Positive Progress”

Councilmember Caroline Brown said. “As Chair of the Education/TV Committee, it is important as Black women that we stand strong and united. Residents should know that we have been able to accomplish a lot of work in the Town, achieved a lot of progress towards the goals residents elected the Council to target, and worked with lots of volunteers to help make this Town great.” Through the Education/TV Committee, the Councilmember has had the opportunity to make dreams come true. “When students & residents decide to go back to school and major in Education or TV because they loved your program, that’s a great accomplishment, that’s heartfelt jubilation and my sincere reward! Another recent project I am excited to support is the food co-op, which will address the food desert in our community. We are having a ribbon cutting in April for a community high tunnel and I am looking forward to this important endeavor. Positive things are happening in our Town!”

“We acted during Women’s History Month to send a clear message that, just like our Vice President Kamala Harris, we are comfortable leading and will not shy from our duties. We have the votes, and we are the voice of the people. People in the Town have asked for reliable neighborhood services with responsive government administration. We are able to do that free from the distraction of dealing with the Resolution” said Councilmember Rhonda Akers, Chair of the Neighborhood Services Committee. “In just the past year, we have been able to announce a new Police Department as well as a Neighborhood Services Department facility on Rollins Avenue. Our commitment to public safety and public service has never been stronger.”

Councilmember LaTonya Chew, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee noted that, “We, as a Council, are not focused on the negativity anymore. We went to the people and made our issues known. Our goal is not to engage in protracted, prolonged political in-fighting. We are working with our Town Administration to prepare for a new season in the literal and figurative senses: with spring coming, we are highlighting the natural beauty of the Town as well as the outdoor resources, that are socially-distanced. We are about the people of this Town and that is why we voted as we did and we stand by that.”

Appearing on WJLA Channel 7 ABC News, Acting Town Administrator, Darrell Miller, stated the following: “As a former Mayor, I know it is important to work with the other people that the voters sent to do the work. Understanding that part of the job requires listening, because our Mayor’s position is more ceremonial than anything else. She or he presides at meetings, signs checks, and represents the Town in an ideal circumstance. This is an exciting time in Capitol Heights and we are looking forward to serving our residents needs.”

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